

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W

-----119481 060245Z /64

R 050650Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3247
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, MY
SUBJECT: DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A) KUALA LUMPUR 2100 B) 77 KUALA LUMPUR 8545
C) 77 KUALA LUMPUR 3429

1. THE NEW STRAITS TIMES TODAY (APRIL 5) REPORTS
THAT EX-SABAH CHIEF MINISTER TUN MUSTAPHA, PRESIDENT
OF SABAH'S OPPOSITION PARTY, UNITED SABAH NATIONAL
ORGANIZATION (USNO), HAS RESIGNED FOR HEALTH
REASONS. MUSTAPHA, ONE-TIME SABAH POLITICAL
BOSS WHO MADE TENTATIVE GESTURES TO EFFECT A
POLITICAL COMEBACK IN MID-1977 (AS REPORTED REF C),
HAS APPARENTLY GIVEN UP THE IDEA OF ATTEMPTING A
TRUE RETURN TO POWER. HE NOW SPENDS MOST OF HIS
TIME IN LONDON, AND THIS, COMBINED WITH HIS AGE
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AND THE FACT THAT STATE ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE
HELD IN SABAH FOR ANOTHER THREE YEARS, AS WELL AS
HIS WELL-PUBLICIZED LUXURIOUS LIFE STYLE MAKE IT
UNLIKELY THAT THE FLAMBOYANT LEADER WILL EVER
AGAIN ASSUME THE POWER HE ONCE HELD IN SABAH.

2. IN ANOTHER DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

HASSAN ADLI, FEDERAL MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL TERRITORY, HAS JOINED THE NEWLY FORMED BERJASA PARTY WHICH GAINED 11 STATE ASSEMBLY SEATS IN THE MARCH 11 KELANTAN ELECTION. HASSAN, A FORMER ISLAMIC PARTY (PAS) MEMBER, WAS EXPELLED FROM HIS PARTY LAST YEAR AFTER SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S STAND IN THE KELANTAN CRISIS (REF A AND B). BERJASA THUS GAINS REPRESENTATION IN THE FEDERAL CABINET. BERJASA ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT A NUMBER OF OTHER FORMER PAS STATE LEADERS FROM PERAK, PERLIS, AND NEGERI SEMBILAN HAVE JOINED THE NEW PARTY, THEREBY GIVING BERJASA A MORE NATIONAL CHARACTER, AND INDICATING THAT ITS CREDIBILITY HAS RISEN BECAUSE OF ITS SUCCESS IN KELANTAN. BERJASA NOW HAS A FOOT-HOLD IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY FROM WHICH IT WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPAND ITS BASE DURING THE COMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS. UNDOUBTEDLY UMNO, THE DOMINANT PARTY IN THE RULING NATIONAL FRONT COALITION, WILL WELCOME THESE MOVES AS BEING LIKELY TO DRAW SUPPORT AWAY FROM ARCH RIVAL PAS.

3. IN SUM, THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE FAVORABLE TO DATUK HUSSEIN ONN AND THE CURRENT NATIONAL FRONT LEADERSHIP. MUSTAPHA'S DEPARTURE REMOVES ONE OBSTACLE TO THE POSSIBLE RECONCILIATION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RIVAL NATIONAL FRONT PARTIES IN SABAH, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD BE WELCOMED IN K.L. IN VIEW OF THE COMING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, AND BERJASA IS SHOWING SIGNS OF BECOMING AN INCREASINGLY VALUABLE ALLY.
MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, PARTY LEADERS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUALA02726
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780148-0011
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780491/aaaacyzi.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a713eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KUALA LUMPUR 2100, 77 KUALA LUMPUR 8545
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3070821
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, MY, (MUSTAPHA, TUN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a713eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014